

introduction of printing, men, you remember, did not glory in modern printing, but the press teemed with laudations of Gutenberg, Coster and Caxton. These shadows unconsciously had grown with the growth of the art of printing; every improvement, every new piece of mechanism, everything that tended to elevate and develop that art, grouped themselves around these old shadows of the past, and when the commemorative hour struck, the skilled mechanics of the present day, the inventors of minute and elaborate improvements, were positively nowhere—no one gave them a thought; the Great Dead filled the stage; the eyes of the audience were fixed on them, although it is questionable whether, if it were possible, any printer of the day would employ any one of the three great primitive men as a practical press hand. But they had grown with the growth of the art that they had invented or introduced. The roughness and coarseness of their work and the imperfections of their machines were forgotten. They stood before the public with five centuries of progressive triumphs as a background, and they